



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer

Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

March 3, 2011

984

Senators Prague and Representatives Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions representing 220,000 members who reside in all 169 of our cities and towns.

I am here to testify in favor of the following proposed bills:

S.B. No. 984 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENHANCEMENT OF SERVICES AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT. We understand the importance of how we spend tax payer dollars, that's why we support efforts to make State government more efficient. The Department of Labor plays a vital role for our residents and we must ensure the balance between money savings and service quality.

S.B. No. 988 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOLVENCY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND. This legislation puts in place safe guards to our Unemployment system for the next recession. By enacting these common sense changes Connecticut can be compliant with Federal law including the sanctity of the fund from any chance of being swept into the General Fund. It protects workers and business.

H.B. No. 6347 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT FOR STATE EMPLOYEES. When FMLA was passed for State employees it was the right thing to do. Now we have had experience in the mechanics of how it works within the State government. This bill provides for a remedy that is fair to both the State and the workers when an issue arises. FMLA has helped many families and this bill will allow it to help in a more efficient manner.

H.B. No. 6370 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATION OF THE ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT. The Department of Labor has a track record of resolving issues of enforcement that is second to none. The Department staff is always looking for ways to increase efficiencies and we applaud their efforts. Again, however efficiency sometimes means some upfront investments, so we ask the committee and the general assembly to weigh these with the overall success of the proposed changes.

We appreciate the committee holding this very important public hearing and we look forward to working with this General Assembly to get this bill passed and signed into law.

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